

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 19, 2004. Claims 10 to 20 are in the application, with Claim 10 being independent. Claim 10 has been amended, and Claims 19 and 20 have been newly added. The specification has been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 to 12, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,300,158 (Simburger) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,558 (Weinberg). Claims 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and Weinberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,785 (Uchihashi). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and Weinberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,569,998 (Cowan). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and Weinberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,409,537 (Harris). Claims 10 to 12, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger in view of EP 0 807 980 (EP '980). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and EP '980 in view of Uchihashi. Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and EP '980 in view of Cowan. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Simburger and EP '980 in view of Harris. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention, the detector is structured to detect a current value of the power collected from the power converter and from the input connector (which is structured to input electric power from another solar battery device connected in parallel).

The Office Action places reliance on Weinberg and EP '980 for the foregoing feature. Applicants respectfully submit that such reliance is misplaced.

Nowhere is Weinberg seen to teach that his detector 211 is structured to detect power collected from a power converter and from an input connector.

With respect to EP '980, the detector 602 merely detects the electric current of the solar cell module 601. See Fig. 6 of EP '980. Nowhere is EP '980 seen to teach that his detector 602 is structured to detect power collected from a power converter and from an input connector.

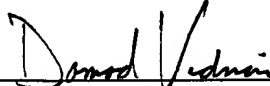
Uchihashi, Cowan and Harris are not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Simburger, Weinberg and EP '980.

Applicants therefore conclude that the applied documents do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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